

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 EPA-04 CEQ-02 SCI-06 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 H-02

STR-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SIL-01 AID-20 CEA-02 CIEP-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 OPIC-12 XMB-07 /187 W
----- 101466

R 040715 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0682

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 1947

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EMIN ENRG OECD AS

SUBJ: MINISTER CONNOR SPEAKS AGAIN

REF: A) CANBERRA A-82 (NOTAL)

B) STATE 39511 (NOTAL)

C) CANBERRA A-32 (NOTAL)

1. MINERALS AND ENERGY MINISTER CONNOR HAS AGAIN
MADE PRESS HEADLINES WITH TWO APRIL 3 STATEMENTS.

2. IN JOINT STATEMENT WITH URBAN AND REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT MINISTER UREN, CONNOR SAID CABINET
SUB- COMMITTEE HAS BEEN SET UP TO INQUIRE INTO
OIL INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA. THIS APPARENTLY IN
RESPONSE TO MARCH 22 ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AMPOL
PETROLEUM LTD. (CANBERRA A-82) PLANS TO BUILD
MAJOR REFINERY AT LUCAS HEIGHTS, N. S. W. UREN
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HAS SHARPLY CRITICIZED SITE ON ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUNDS.

3. SECOND CONNOR STATEMENT WAS MADE IN PARLIAMENT
IN RESPONSE TO MOTION BY LIBERAL SHADOW MINISTER
FAIRBAIRN ACCUSING NEW LABOR GOA OF DAMAGING LOCAL
MINING INDUSTRY. IN SCATHING REPLY, CONNOR
CRITICIZED FORMER GOA AND FAIRBAIRN IN PARTICULAR
FOR VARIOUS SINS. CONNOR SAID LIBERALS FORGOT
THAT " TODAY THERE IS A WORLD ENERGY CRISIS." HE
SAID AUSTRALIA WILL BE " SUBJECT OF RESOURCES
DIPLOMACY OF BOTH JAPAN AND US." AND THAT BOTH
THESE COUNTRIES " ARE IN PROCESS OF TRYING TO PUT
AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE WRINGE R" AT THE OECD.
CONNOR ALSO REVEALED THAT AUSTRALIA WILL HAVE AN
" ENERGY BUDGET" GOVERNING HOW MUCH FUEL CAN BE
EXPORTED AND HOW MUCH IS REQUIRED FOR LOCAL NEEDS.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: CONNOR APPARENTLY RELISHES
THE FREQUENT HEADLINES HE HAS OBTAINED FOR HIS STAUNCHLY NATIONAL-
ISTIC VIEWS WITH CAUSTIC REMARKS ON OVERSEAS INVESTMENT IN
GENERAL AND FOREIGN OWNERSHIP AND CONTROL OF
AUSTRALIAN RESOURCES. OFFICIALS OF CONNOR' S
DEPARTMENT UNABLE TO CLARIFY OR EXPLAIN MINISTER' S
" THROUGH THE WRINGE R" REMARKS, EXCEPT TO GUESS
IT IS ANOTHER IN SERIES OF OFF- THE- CUFF CONNOR
STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE ON SPUR OF MOMENT. EMBASSY
ASSUMES MINISTER REFERRING TO OECD EMERGENCY OIL
APPORTIONMENT PROPOSAL NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION BY
JAPAN, CANADA, US AND AUSTRALIA (STATE 39511). WE
WILL SEEK FURTHER CLARIFICATION ON THIS AND ON " ENERGY
BUDGET" AND CABINET SUB- COMMITTEE INVESTIGATION OF
OIL INDUSTRY. CONNOR SCHEDULED TO DELIVER MAJOR
POLICY STATEMENT IN PARLIAMENT AROUND APRIL 12.
EMBASSY WILL REPORT DEVELOPMENTS.
RICE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MELBOURNE
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SECSTATE WASHDC
SYDNEY
TOKYO
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